

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ACCRA 000636

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [SCUL](#) [OIIP](#) [OEXC](#) [PGOV](#) [GH](#)

SUBJECT: REPORT ON MRP "COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL CRIME" FROM JANUARY 7 - 28, 2005.

1. Summary. The Chief Inspector of Police at the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Ghana Police, Elvis Bawa Sadongo, was among the participants in the MRP on "Combating International Crime" from January 7 - 28, 2005. He said his trip was a real "eye-opener" because he and the other IVLP participants were given an honest assessment of the security lapses prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the preventative steps against future attacks being taken post-9/11. End Summary.

2. In Washington, D.C. their first stop, Mr. Sadongo and the other IVLP participants were given a round of briefings at the Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Justice Department. He said he was very surprised to see how the United States had been such an active player on the international scene but had had such a serious lapse in internal security that permitted the terrorist attacks to take place on its soil in 2001.

3. Mr. Sadongo said one of the most fascinating parts of the trip was when he accompanied the border patrol on its rounds in Tucson, Arizona, near the Mexican border. He said he could not believe the border was so expansive and yet so open. He said that as the U.S. authorities are building fences and barricades on their side of the border, Mexicans are countering the effort by bulldozing tons of soil to higher levels to enable Mexicans to continue to cross the border even over the fences and barricades.

4. He and others in the group were perplexed by the laws that prevent police from crossing into another jurisdiction in the pursuit of a suspected criminal. He said members of his group were aghast that, as an example, police in Cincinnati, Ohio told them they could not pursue a suspected criminal fleeing across the bridge spanning the Ohio River into Kentucky. He said they asked the policeman, incredulously, what he would do in that case, to which he replied that he would stop his vehicle, and then alert police in Kentucky to pursue the suspect on their side of the state line.

5. The group was also given a tour of a Department of Homeland Security research center, near Cincinnati, that is being used as a model to determine whether a city's water supply has been poisoned. Mr. Sadongo said he learned how U.S. authorities are using the simplest means, examining plant and fish life, as well as the most scientific means, such as redesigning PVC pipes, to help determine whether urban water supplies are contaminated.

6. Mr. Sadongo said all members of his group, including a Canadian participant, were dumbstruck by the sophisticated use of high technology in fighting crime in the United States.

He said the Strategic Operational Center in Hamilton County, once fully operational, will be amazing because the Center will receive all crime calls in its area, and each police commander will be able to follow the progress of the cases through their own touch-screen computers. He said he was highly impressed to see policemen receive a call from their

dispatcher and it automatically appeared as a text message on a computer screen in their police car. He said the group was also bowled over by the fully automated court system in Tucson, where all parties concerned have a computer screen in front of them and, as evidence is shown to the court, it appears on each screen.

17. He said an emotional moment came when members of the group were able to stand at the exact spot at the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I have a dream" speech. He expressed his gratitude to post and to the ECA staff and its partners for including him on the MRP, which represented his first trip to the United States.

YATES